

Los Angeles in turmoil; Syria's lost tomb; A tiny violin that's no joke; and a giant meatball you don't want to eat!

Hello and welcome to Squiz Kids Today ... your fresh take on what's happening in the world around you.

I'm [Christie Kijurina](#)

It's Wednesday June 11 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Los Angeles in turmoil; Syria's lost tomb; A tiny violin that's no joke; and a giant meatball you don't want to eat!

That's what's making news, kid's style ...

THE LOWDOWN

When you think of California, you might imagine sunny beaches, Disneyland, and the glitz and glamour of Hollywood. But in Los Angeles this week, things look very different.

The city has been at the centre of big protests after U.S. immigration officers, known as ICE, carried out raids targeting people who live and work there without official permission. These undocumented workers often do important jobs, like picking fruit, building houses, and serving food, that help keep the city running. Many have lived in the U.S. for years, paying taxes and raising families.

The raids have sparked protests in the streets, with people demanding fair treatment for these workers. While most demonstrations have been peaceful, a few turned rowdy, with some people damaging property and clashing with police.

In response, the U.S. government has sent in the National Guard and even 700 U.S. Marines to protect government buildings and employees. The National Guard is a part-time military force that usually helps out in emergencies like bushfires, floods, and hurricanes. They're trained to assist with law and order if requested by a state, but in this case, California's state governor did not ask for their help, raising questions about

whether their presence is needed or even allowed. People are worried their presence could make tensions worse, like adding fuel to a fire.

It's a tough balance—making sure people can protest peacefully while also keeping everyone safe. It's a reminder that even in the land of movie stars and palm trees, real people's lives and rights are at the heart of big debates.

SPIN THE GLOBE

Each day, we give the world globe a spin and find a news story from wherever it stops. And today, we've landed in Syria, where an ancient treasure has been unearthed in the middle of a city still recovering from years of war.

In the town of Maarat al-Numan, a construction worker clearing rubble from a destroyed house stumbled upon a hidden tomb complex dating back 1,500 years to the Byzantine Empire. The discovery includes two underground burial chambers, complete with stone tombs, a Christian cross, pottery, glass artefacts and of course, bones.

Syria was once a popular destination for tourists eager to explore its rich history and ancient sites. However, after a long civil war and years under a strict ruler, who was overthrown last year, many Syrians were afraid to report discoveries like this, fearing their land might be confiscated.

Now, as Syria works to rebuild, locals hope that preserving and showcasing such archaeological finds will attract tourists back, supporting local communities and shining a light on the country's incredible heritage.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Have you ever been whingeing about something pretty small and someone started rubbing their thumb and forefinger together? That's their cheeky way of pretending to play the world's smallest violin, sarcastically saying, "Oh, poor you!"

Well, scientists in the UK have actually created a real-world version... kind of! Researchers at Loughborough University in the UK have built what they're calling the world's smallest violin. It's so tiny that it's narrower than a single strand of human hair! Using advanced 3D printing technology, they made the violin out of metal at the microscopic level, showing just how far science has come.

Before you get too excited, though, this miniature marvel doesn't actually play music. It's more of a demonstration of what's possible in miniaturisation technology. But imagine how cool it would be if it did!

If you want to see how they made it, check out the video in the episode notes. And the next time you see that thumb-and-forefinger violin, you can shake your head and say 'Nope, that's not it... I know where you can find the real one!'

FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD

From tiny things to giant ones... I hope you've got a strong stomach for this next story, because it's definitely not your average dinner chat!

A few years back, a mathematician did some truly wild calculations and figured out that if we minced up every single human on Earth, yep, every one of us, we'd end up with a giant meatball with a diameter (that's the distance across the middle from one side to the other) of about one kilometre. That's so big it wouldn't fit inside any Australian footy stadium... AFL fields only average about 150 metres in length, so we'd need a space way bigger than a footy oval to roll that one around!

And it gets even more mind-blowing. If you wanted to make a sausage out of every insect on Earth, it'd weigh around a billion tonnes, twice the size of our meatball!

And if you're really not picky, scientists say that if you packed the entire mass of bacteria on Earth into a giant slurpee container, you'd get a 70-billion-tonne drink.

This guy clearly had too much time on his hands!

But, if you do want a super-gross but fascinating fact to share at dinner tonight, this is it!

Q+A CALL OUT

THE S'QUIZ

This is the part of the podcast where you get to test how well you've been listening ...

1. In which country was an ancient Byzantine tomb recently uncovered?
2. How did researchers make the world's tiniest violin?
3. How wide would a meatball made out of all the human's on Earth be?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday June 11 ... the date of the premiere of two iconic movies. ET was released on this date wayy back in 1982 and Jurassic Park (the OG one) wayyy back in 1993. And, if you haven't yet seen either of these classics... what are you waiting for!?

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Charlie from Emu Heights, Henry from Exeter, Kaitlyn from Gowanbrae, Isaac and Elijah from Balmoral and Riley and Joshua from Bentleigh.

Belated shoutouts go to ... Sebastian from Belrose and Adrian from Narre Warren South.

Classroom shoutouts go to ... class 3B with Ms Bell at PLC in Sydney, class 3D with Miss Daunt at Estella Public School in Wagga Wagga, class 3A with Ms Long and class Prep A with Ms Luwor at Somers Primary School, class 5K with Miss Klemke at Korringal Public School and class 6 Blue with Mrs Murdoch and Mrs Stretton at St John the Baptist Primary School in Maitland.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Syria
2. They 3D printed it
3. 1 kilometre wide

Otherwise ... don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you want a shout out - or, if you're after a classroom shout out- drop us a line at squizkids@thesquiz.com.au or fill out the form on our website.

Well - that's all we have time for. Thanks for listening to Squiz Kids Today - We'll be back again tomorrow

In the meantime, get out there and have a most excellent day. Over and out.